

Application Serial No: 10/751,188
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: March 12, 2007

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 12, 2007. Claims 2, 4-8, 11-13 and 15 are amended. Claim 15 is amended editorially and is supported, for example, in the specification in Figure 22A. Claims 2, 4-8 and 11-13 are amended to depend from claim 15. Claims 2, 6, 8, 11 and 12 are further amended to track amended claim 15. Claims 1, 3, 9, 10 and 14 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 16 is added and is supported, for example, in the specification on page 19, lines 12-24 and Figure 22A. No new matter is added. Claims 2, 4-8, 11-13, 15 and 16 are pending.

Specification Objections:

The title is objected to as being non descriptive. The title is amended as requested in the present Office Action. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Drawings Objections:

The drawings are objected to for not showing all of the limitations of claims 9 and 10. Claims 9 and 10 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, this objection is now moot. Withdrawal of this objection is requested. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this objection.

Claim Objections:

Claim 10 is objected to for informalities. Claim 10 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, this objection is now moot. Withdrawal of this objection is requested. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this objection.

§102 Rejections:

Claims 1-7 and 11 are rejected as being anticipated by Chung (US Patent No. 63-6,442,124). This rejection is traversed. Claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 4-7 and 11 are amended to depend from amended claim 15. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Application Serial No: 10/751,188
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: March 12, 2007

§103 Rejections:

Claims 1-7, 11 and 13 are rejected as being unpatentable over Hasman (US Patent No. 5,526,338) in view of Chung. This rejection is traversed. Claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 4-7, 11 and 13 are amended to depend from amended claim 15. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected as being unpatentable over Chung or the combination of Hasman and Chung. This rejection is traversed. Claim 8 is amended to depend from amended claim 15 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons discussed below. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 10 is rejected as being unpatentable over Chung or the combination of Hasman and Chung and further in view of themselves. This rejection is traversed. Claim 10 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 12 is rejected as being unpatentable over Chung or the combination of Hasman and Chung and further in view of Opheij (US Patent No. 4,810,073). This rejection is traversed. Claim 12 is amended to depend from amended claim 15 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons discussed below. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 14 is rejected as being unpatentable over Chung or the combination of Hasman and Chung and further in view of Lee (US Patent No. 6,611,383), Sugiura (US Patent No. 5,999,509) or Getreuer (US Patent No. 6,741,529). This rejection is traversed. Claim 12 is amended to depend from amended claim 15 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons discussed below. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 13 is rejected as being unpatentable over Chung or the combination of Hasman and Chung and further in view of Hasman. This rejection is traversed. Claim 13

Application Serial No: 10/751,188
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: March 12, 2007

is amended to depend from amended claim 15 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons discussed below. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 15 is rejected as being unpatentable over Ju (US Patent No. 6,324,150), Sugiura or Chung in view of either Ando (US Patent No. 6,744,720) or Choi (US Patent No. 5,671,206). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 15 is directed to an optical head that requires, among other features, a first light source having a first optical axis, a second light source having a second optical axis intersecting with the first optical axis, a third light source having a third optical axis that is substantially parallel to the first optical axis and a beam splitter being surrounded with the first light source, the second light source and the third light source. The beam splitter requires a first prism that is provided so that the light beam from the first light source enters therein, a second prism that is provided so that the light beam from the second light source enters therein and a third prism that is provided so that the light beam from the third light source enters therein. The beam splitter further requires a first optical film that is formed between the first prism and the second prism and a second optical film that is formed between the first prism and the third prism, wherein only the first optical film intersects the first optical axis, only the second optical film intersects the third optical axis, and both the first optical film and the second optical film intersect the second optical axis.

None of the prior art references cited in the present Office Action teach or suggest these features. The rejection relies on Ando for teaching a beam splitter with three prisms. Ando is directed to an optical element beam shaping prism (140). However, nowhere does Ando teach or suggest a beam splitter that has a first optical film and a second optical film such that only the first optical film intersects the first optical axis, only the second optical film intersects the third optical axis, and both the first optical film and the second optical film intersect the second optical axis.

Neither Ju, Sugiura, Chung nor Choi overcome these deficiencies. Ju is directed to an optical pickup head that uses multiple laser sources. Sugiura is directed to an optical pickup head with two independent light beams. Chung is directed to an optical pickup apparatus that teaches a dichroic beam splitter 50 formed by four prisms. Choi is directed to an optical pickup device that has a prism 70. However, nowhere do these

Application Serial No: 10/751,188
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: March 12, 2007

references teach or suggest a beam splitter that has a first optical film and a second optical film such that only the first optical film intersects the first optical axis, only the second optical film intersects the third optical axis, and both the first optical film and the second optical film intersect the second optical axis. For at least these reasons, claim 15 is not suggested by the prior art references cited in the present Office Action. As discussed above, claims 2, 4-8, 11-13 and 16 depend from claim 15 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion:

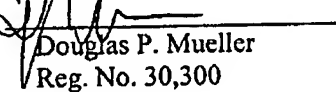
Applicants respectfully assert claims 2, 4-8, 11-13, 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.



Dated: July 12, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 455-3800

By: 
Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM/ahk